

OCTOBER 1934

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD

OLD BOYS JOURNAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

By Henry Steele.

One of the most interesting features of the old Boys Journals, is the illustrations. Not only are they interesting but they are sometimes amusing. In order to save the expense of fresh drawings, the editors would insert an illustration to a story which had been taken from some other tale, and made to fit, as it were. The results were rather startling at times. In a story called "War to the Knife, or, The Captain of the Lone Star", in Boys Standard, 1889, the first illustrations shows the costumes of the 15th Century - in the second we get dresses of James I Period. In the 6th picture, we have Charles II costumes, and in the 7th, the dresses of the 18th Century, which is the actual period of the story. In "Giant Jack" (Boys Champion Journal, 1889) one of the characters is a little undersized tailor, called Snip, who is usually depicted clean shaven, but in one of the pictures he is shown as a brawny thick-set man with a full set of whiskers, struggling with a wild bull. In "Lionel of the Sea" (Boys Leisure Hour, 1885) the wording under one of the illustrations runs, "Nero raised Lionel of the Sea in his brawny arms and dashed him over the bulwarks." The absurdity of this picture lies in the fact that Nero is standing several yards away from the bulwarks... In a story entitled, "Will and his Friend Wobe" (Boys Comic Journal, 1888) the caption under one picture is:

VOLUME THREE

NUMBER THIRTYFOUR

"The Bear dashed at the Giant Peasant." The Bear however, is standing still in a most docile attitude, holding up one paw, as if to shake hands.

In the Young Englishman, appeared an 18th Century story, "Tim No'er-do-Well", but in one of the illustrations, two of the characters are shown wearing modern dress.... A curious feature of a story in the Boys of the Empire (1888-9) called "The Tyrants of the School", is the fact that all the school boys are shown wearing modern dress, while all the older characters are attired in 18th Century costume.

The last illustration of "The King of the Pampas" in the Young Briton of 1873, was obviously never intended for the story. It shows two men facing one another, with drawn swords, while a third man is holding one of them back. They are in a room. The incident is supposed to illustrate the duel between the King of the Pampas and Juan de Palma, which takes place on the open Prairie, with no one else present.... In "Wallace, the Hero of Scotland", a 13th Century story (Boys Standard, 1882) one of the pictures shows characters wearing dresses of the time of James I.

Perhaps the most absurd example of all, is in a story entitled, "The Heads of the Headless", published by Lloyd. This is a tale of the year 1499, and one of the pictures shows a man wearing evening dress.

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A SET WELL WORTH HAVING.

Pluck and Luck, Nos. 1 to 875, the complete set of the original series of Pluck and Luck, no later reprints, are in the collection of Ray Caldwell, at Lancaster, Pa.

He's been told by a well-known collector,

that this set was worth not less than \$1500.00 to \$2000.00, for he said he would average them at \$2.00 per copy. Ray says he would not part with the set for \$1000.00. To tell the truth, Ray has paid on an average of \$1.00 per copy. He's been offered \$5.00 each for the first five numbers.

The values of the different nos. in the set, are as follows:

There are 25 Jack Wrights in the set and in perfect condition, at that. They are worth at least \$3.00 each, while most of the Revolutionary war stories and the western stories are the next rarest, and are easily worth from \$1.50 to \$3.00 each, in nice condition.

All numbers below 100 are worth at least \$1.50, and all numbers below 599 are worth \$1.00 each, excepting of course, the numbers I mentioned above as worth more. It sure is a fine set well worth having.

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DeWITT INFORMATION.

By Patrick Mulhall.

Nightshade, or Claude Duval, the Dashing Highwayman, was written by Malcolm J. Errym, and was published by John Dicks in 1863, and ran to 60 weekly numbers of eight pages each. It is the same story as that published by DeWitt. But I do not think it is identical, with that published by Lloyd, as Lloyd's ran to 202 numbers, 1616 pages. If they be the same story, Dick's would be a greatly abridged version. As for those "Claude Duvals" which were written by Charlton Lea and Stephen Agnew, they are of a comparatively recent issue, having first appeared during the "nineties", but they may have been based to some extent on some of the earlier-written novels. The name ERRYM is an anagram on the surnames, "Merry and Eymor", but it is still a debated question which of the two

was the author's real name.

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MORE GOOD NEWS.

By Willis E. Hurd..

Thirty-five years or so ago, I know some of the dime novel writers of a previous age. There was Fred Myon Colby of Warner, N.H., and Geo. Waldo Browne of Manchester. Both wrote for Beadle and Adams, and Browne wrote a few of the Nick Carter novels. Fred Dye used to summer at Sunapee Lake, near my home. My wife's cousin knew him, and said he wrote some of the Jack Wright tales, of which I own 40 or more in the Boys Star Library. These tales however were written by at least two persons, as I could tell by the variations in style.

I corresponded with Whitson and Patten, who wrote the Morriwell stories. Patten sent me a volume of his poems. I wrote several short stories for Abarbanell, for Golden Hours, and Browne and I "wrote each other up" for Golden Hours, Jr. John DeMorgan used me, as a character in one of his adventures. Col. Ingraham sent me two autographed pirate yarns just before he died. Col. Edward Walter Dawson was my two-day guest. He was a personal friend of Geo. G. Small, who I believe was the author of the famous Shorty stories, most of which I have. I still possess upwards of 1000 oldtime and colored-cover novels: Beadle's-Tousen's-Street & Smiths-Munro's, etc; a few oldtimers like "Skinny, the Tin Pedler" in Wide Awake, and many Jack Wright and Frank Reades, first editions. A few hundred of my novels are bound, and I have complete sets in binding, of such series as Red, White & Blue-Adventure Weekly-Klondike Kit-Etc. Fortunately, most of my novels are in "No. 1" shape.